

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Committee advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits under title 38, United States Code, for veterans who are former prisoners of war and the needs of such veterans in the areas of service-connected compensation, health care and rehabilitation.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: The Department of Veterans Affairs has a continuing need for the deliberations and advice of the Committee. As a statutory committee under title 38, United States Code, section 541, the Committee has no termination date.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

E. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: The Veterans Benefits Administration is responsible for providing support to the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War.

F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: The Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War will assess the needs of former prisoners of war in the areas of compensation, health care, and rehabilitation; review those Department programs and activities designed to meet such needs; and develop such recommendations as it considers appropriate, including recommendations for administrative and legislative action.

The Committee will be composed of approximately ten (10) members and will include representatives of veterans who are former prisoners of war; representatives of disabled veterans; and authorities in fields pertaining to disabilities prevalent among former prisoners of war, including epidemiology, mental health, nutrition, geriatrics, and internal medicine. The Committee shall also include, as ex officio members, the Under Secretary for Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits, or their designees. Several members may be Regular Government Employees, but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees.

G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS: Annual operating cost for the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War is \$90,000 and .5 staff-years. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee is expected to meet two times annually. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: None.

J. DATE CHARTER FILED:

Approved:



Gordon H. Mansfield
Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date:

12/13/07